



Saint Louis Audubon Bulletin

VOL. 19, No. 1

MAY, 1950

A NATURE AND CONSERVATION CENTER FOR ST. LOUIS!

On April 13, 1950, important progress was made toward the St. Louis Area Nature Center. Some 1000 members voted in favor of going ahead with establishment of such a center.

Our Society is now launched on a civic enterprise of far reaching significance. It is hoped that all Audubon members will take part in making this project a tremendous success.

To record the proceedings of the April 13 meeting, we are publishing the reports of President E. G. Cherbonnier and William Neal Kelley as presented at that time:

President Cherbonnier: . . . For some time there has been an obvious need in St. Louis for a focal point and headquarters for those interested in native birds, animals and plants. Our past President, Mr. Kelley, and our Executive Secretary, Mr. Heckler, along with several members of the Society, have made a careful study of the possibilities of a location, the cost, and the likelihood of the cooperation of other organizations. There is no doubt that such facilities are badly needed and would be an asset to our community. There is also no doubt that it would, to be successful, require the active support of our membership and of other organizations who might use its facilities.

As chairman of the Investigating Committee on this subject, I am going to ask Mr. Kelley to give us his report, and then I will give you the reaction of your Board of Directors at a special meeting held Tuesday of this week. After that there will be time for questions from the floor, many of which can be answered by Mr. Kelley and Mr. Heckler.

William Neal Kelley: *We, the Committee, recognize an urgent need for:*

a) *A focal point in the St. Louis area for fostering interest in conservation of our natural resources.*

b) *A nature center and trailside museum to stimulate an appreciation of natural history.*

c) *A headquarters for the St. Louis Audubon Society readily accessible to the membership and general public.*

d) *A small meeting place for allied organizations (Federated Garden Clubs, Academy of Science, etc.,) with space for activities and exhibits conforming to the general purpose, all within a stimulating environment.*

We further recognize that:

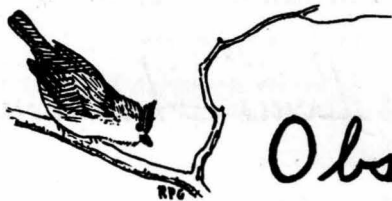
a) *With the proper location and management the same building could serve all above purposes.*

b) *The Old Mounted Police Station in Forest Park is probably available although would require extensive repair and alterations amounting to perhaps \$15,000.*

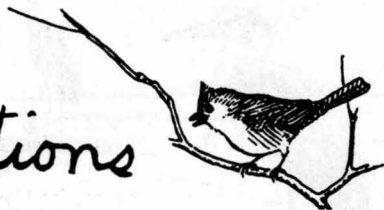
c) *Past efforts to establish similar centers have not been successful. It is believed that, hitherto, there has not been a sustained effort by a single active organization. Herein, we believe, is our strength.*

d) *In any event, the project of establishing a conservation and nature center should be accepted as a possible long term proposition. Cooperation and aid from individuals and organizations outside of our Society and from municipal sources should be forthcoming and most welcome; however, such assistance, such*

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Observations



Record Breaking Census

All previous Spring Census records were shattered, Sunday, May 7 when the combined reports totaled 209 species for the day. Recent records: 187 (1948); 194 (1949).

* * *

One notable fact is that so far as anyone remembers, it is the first time in history that *all of the warblers of this area have been seen in one day*. And on top of that, Arkansas Kingbird and Lazuli Bunting!

* * *

"Century Club" please note these totals for the day: 154, Eugene Wilhelm; 147, Bill Bremser Jr. and Kurt Wesseling; 144, Jim Ziervogel; in the 130's, Jack Van Benthuyzen, Alberta Bolinger, Earl Comfort, Jim Comfort, Mark Tuttle.

Besides the amazing census, 1950 has turned up some of the rarest birds of modern times for this area: Eared Grebe, Barnacle Goose, Hudsonian Godwit, Avocet, Baird's Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, Cinnamon Teal, Piping Plover, Northern Shrike, Bohemian Waxwing, Spotted Towhee, and Sprague's Pipit.

* * *

Running as "close seconds" were: Old Squaw Duck, Evening Grosbeak, Redpoll, Nelson's Sparrow, Bachman's Sparrow. Other 1950 "good finds" include: Golden Eagle, White Fronted Goose, Horned Grebe, Krider's Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Florida Gallinule, Red Breasted Nuthatch, Long Eared Owl, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Wilson's Phalarope.

Audubon Award

At the May 2 Screen Tour, Mr. E. G. Cherbonnier President and Roger Tory Peterson presented the annual Audubon awards. A one hundred dollar scholarship to an Audubon Nature Camp, to Miss Lois Wamhoff, 5707 Neosho, in recognition of her promoting interest in nature and the study of nature. In making the award Mr. Cherbonnier said *"It is through the splendid work of people like Lois Wamhoff and others who are teachers and youth leaders that the Audubon cause will have its finest effect on the citizens of tomorrow."*

Twelve boys and girls received scholarship memberships in the Audubon Society. They are:

Paul Bauer, Margaret Jones, Joel Justus, Bobby Meyer, Ted Paris, Robert Remmert, James Allen Shepard, Donald Stuckmeyer, Wallace Tyler, Carolyn Wimber, Dick Ziervogel, Charles Leach.

Six youthful nature lovers received book awards, in recognition of their keen interest in the study of birds and nature. They are:

Gary Giessow, Bill Grundmann, Lester Newman, Chip Reay, Larry Small, Carolyn Van.

The annual award of Junior Audubon Silver Cup went to: Field and Forest Conservation Club of University City High School. This was *"in recognition of the outstanding achievement of this organization in bringing to the attention of the public wider interest in conservation and natural science. This organization has created some outstanding exhibits in this field. Several of these exhibits won high praise at the St. Louis Science Fair. One at the Stix Baer and Fuller Exhibition Gallery received much acclaim, and another was selected as one of twelve to represent the United States in a United Nations educational tour of South America."* Lester Newman, as President of the club accepted the Cup on behalf of the school.

Announcement was made that the series of motion picture lectures will again be presented next season to St. Louis school children, through the generosity of one of our members, and through cooperation of the Board of Education, supervised by the Audio-Visual Department, Miss Elizabeth Golterman, director.

All awards are made possible through Loyalty fund contributions of members.

PLACE OF MEETING CHANGED

May 19, Friday, 8 P.M.

Stix Baer & Fuller Auditorium

VACATIONING WITH NATURE

Featuring color movies and slides of Audubon camp life, including pictures of birds, plants, wildlife. "Audubon Campers" will be in charge. This is our ANNUAL MEETING

All Members, including Screen Tour members, are invited to attend this interesting meeting.

**Enter at 7th Street Door
Elevator to 9th Floor**

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pat locations as mentioned must not be crucial to the success of the project.

Our Committee, therefore recommends that the Board of Directors authorize presentation to the membership together with the above conclusions the following proposal for Society approval:

Be it moved:

That the St. Louis Audubon Society adopt the project of establishing and operating a conservation and nature center in the St. Louis area.

That although it is desirable to make the center a cooperative effort of the interested organizations and individuals, the membership accepts the primary responsibilities involved.

That a committee be appointed to carry out this project with authority as defined by the Board of Directors to make the necessary arrangements and solicit the necessary funds in the name of the Society.

That until proposed constitutional and by-law amendments are approved by the membership, the membership authorize a temporary working arrangement as described in the proposed amendments.

Conservation Center Investigation Committee

Mrs. Erle Jackson
Miss Elizabeth Golterman
Mr. Myron Northrop
Mr. G. Alex Hope
Mr. Wm. N. Kelley, Chairman

President Cherbonnier: . . . There is no commitment from our city government, but it is at least possible that the old mounted police station in Forest Park, near the Muni-

cipal Opera, might be repaired and used. If the city were to agree to this, our Society would have to stand the entire cost of repairing and furnishing the building which has been estimated at different figures. It is my opinion that it might take something more than \$25,000.

Maintenance costs after that would depend on the arrangements made with the city. It is hoped that they would furnish maintenance, light, heat, janitor and guard service.

In addition to having Mr. Heckler's office there, we would have to have one or more additional persons to arrange, maintain and staff the exhibits, look after the library, handle school and boy scout groups, and to service the public in general. Estimates on this maintenance cost, over and above our present budget, might run from six to ten thousand dollars a year depending on the amount of upkeep assumed by the city.

While we are talking budgets, I cannot give you the financial figures for the current fiscal year ending April 30th, but it seems that our expenses this year will run about \$6,000 and that we may not take in quite as much.

Therefore, the establishment and maintenance of such a center would require first, an original sum of possibly \$25,000 to \$30,000 which would not be a recurring expense. In other words, if we raised that and established

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and furnished a building, we would not be faced with further building expenses.

We would then, however, have a maintenance expense of eight to ten thousand dollars over and above our present current expenses of possibly \$6,000 a year. It would mean an annual operating budget of say \$14,000 to \$16,000 when at present we are slightly behind on a \$6,000 budget. Please do not misunderstand me, I am not throwing this out as anything pessimistic, but because in making up your minds about this project, we want you to have a complete financial picture, as near as it can be estimated.

When considered by the board last Tuesday, the project was unanimously voted to be recommended to the membership, but naturally it could not be successful without the enthusiastic support of a large majority of our members.

The board does not feel that the dues of the various classes of membership should be changed to further this project. It would be expected that all contributions would be voluntary over and above regular dues and that in many cases the contribution of time and effort in a campaign would be as valuable as cash contributions.

While it is hoped that the Forest Park project may be worked out, it is the opinion of the board that if satisfactory arrangements cannot be made for this particular site, we should go ahead with the project at some other site.

If you vote favorably on this project, a paragraph substantially as follows will be incorporated in our revised by-laws:

Nature Center Committee: The Nature Center Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and at least three members appointed by the President. Under the direction of the Board of Directors this Committee shall have charge of plans, development and arrangements for the establishment of a Nature Center or Nature and Conservation Center in the

St. Louis area. Upon establishment of the Center, the Committee shall supervise the operation thereof. This Committee, under the direction of the Board of Directors, shall have power to solicit and receive donations for and to disburse necessary funds for the establishment and maintenance of such Center. All such funds shall be deposited in the name of the Society in a bank or trust company other than the one or ones in which the Society's general funds are deposited. The subject funds may be withdrawn for the purposes of the Nature Center only, and upon checks signed by the Committee Chairman, or by a member of the Committee designated in writing by the Committee Chairman, and countersigned by the Treasurer or the President of the Society. This Committee shall keep a record of Nature Center gifts and transactions, which shall be reported at Board Meetings, and which shall be open to the inspection of Board members. No liabilities shall be incurred exceeding the amount of funds on hand for the purposes of this Center.

I am now going to throw the meeting open to discussion with Mr. Kelley and Mr. Heckler here to answer your questions.

A sizable committee for working on various phases of the Nature and Conservation Center is now being formed.

Meanwhile, of course, if any member wants to volunteer assistance, either financial or in the form of personal effort, Bill Kelley will be glad to hear from you. Address Possum Trot Farm, Route 14, Box 1070, Affton, Missouri

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